



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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CONTACT: David Dearborn, 860-524-7313
David.dearborn@ct.gov

Governor Rell Extends Heating Aid Application Deadline to May 1

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that the state's energy assistance program is extending its application deadline by two weeks to Monday, May 1, a move that will especially benefit residents facing utility shutoffs

"Thousands of households across the state have been receiving benefits under the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, but many more could be eligible," Governor Rell said. "By extending the application deadline from April 17 to May 1, we hope to assist more senior citizens, people with disabilities and families in getting out from under this winter's exorbitant heating bills."

The extended application timeframe will especially benefit eligible residents whose primary heat is natural gas or electricity and who are behind on their bills.

"The state's utility shutoff moratorium ends April 15—meaning that people who are significantly behind on their bills can lose natural gas or electric service," the Governor said. "Consequently, the program is targeting households that heat with utilities for the extended application period. People who heat with deliverable fuels are also eligible to apply through May 1."

Projected to serve more than 84,000 households this heating season, Connecticut's energy assistance program is administered by the Department of Social Services through 12 regional community action agencies and partner human service agencies.

Applications are taken at some 160 locations statewide. As examples of income guidelines, a single senior citizen or person with a disability with income up to \$26,832; or a family of three earning \$43,344 can be eligible. Seniors, people with disabilities, families and single adults can get application and eligibility information by calling Infoline at 2-1-1; their local community action agency; or by visiting www.ct.gov/staywarm.

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